

**CITY OF MIAMI BEACH
TRANSPARANCY,
RELIABILITY, AND
ACCOUNTABILITY
COMMITTEE (TRAC)**

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WEITHORN**

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**COMMISSION OFFICE
ANNE SWANSON
(305) 673-7105**

**STAFF LIASONS
ROBERT PARCHER
PATRICIA WALKER**

**CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
JEAN OLIN**

**TRAC Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 19, 2008**

In attendance:

Committee Members: Commissioner Deede Weithorn, Frank Del Vecchio, Steve Chaneles, Mike Burke, David Lancz

City Staff: Matti Herrera Bower, Jorge Gonzalez, Tim Hemstreet, Jorge Gomez, Robert Parcher, Graciela Escalante, Gladys Acosta, Robert Biles, George Echert, Carla Gomez, Anne Swanson

Public Members: Harry Cherry, Morris Sunshine, Marty Evans,

Absent: Sam Rabin, Robert Henry

Meeting was called to order at 5:18pm by Commissioner Weithorn.

Frank Del Vecchio made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 5, 2008 meeting, Steve Chaneles seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by the committee.

The City Manager, Jorge Gonzalez, gave an update and some background of the issues that have been plaguing the city's Building Department, including the very recent resignation of the Building Department Director Thomas Velasquez, who had held that position for the last two years. Planning Department Director, Jorge Gomez, will function as the interim director of the Building Department until the newly appointed director takes his position. The new building director, Alex Ray, will handle the administrative aspects of the department once he starts at the city in a couple of months, while a Building Official, Richard McConachie, will ensure that the Building Department is enforcing the Florida Building Code to the best of its ability and will handle the technical aspects of the department. Commissioner Weithorn and the City Manager have also been interviewing outside audit/consultant firm to analyze the Building Department as well. The discussion continued regarding the Building Department and the City Manager's current goal of building morale among staff, while balancing a productive Building Department and working towards an organizational structure which includes the necessary monitoring. The consultants should be able to assist with this process.

Assistant City Manager, Tim Hemstreet, presented a powerpoint presentation reviewing the recent changes in the Building Department procedures, as well as responding to the Business Resolution Task Force recommendations which were made in 2000. The changes include restructuring of overtime procedures, the handling of finances, the development of a policy manual (in progress), and website redesign, creation of checklists so that people better understand what they need to prepare to get a building permit, possible GPS units in all city cars (already going into laptops).

Mike Burke made a motion to express the sentiment of the committee to support the City Manager's plan to install GPS units (or similar technology) in all city vehicles as this would promote the committee's mission of transparency. David Lancz seconded the motion. Steve Chaneles made motion to defer this item to a later meeting. There was no second. The original motion was back on the table. Mike Burke and David Lancz voted yes on the motion. Frank Del Vecchio and Steve Chaneles were opposed. The motion did not pass.

TRAC will not meet on July 3, 2008.

Meeting Adjourned